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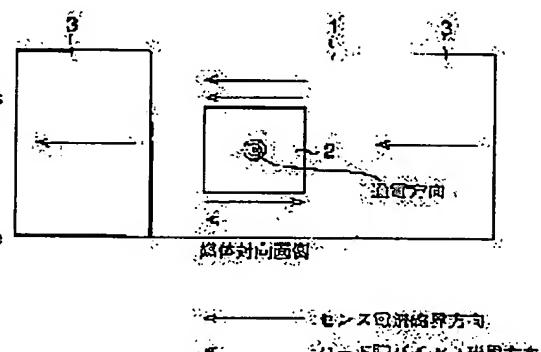
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(54) VERTICAL-CONDUCTION-TYPE MAGNETIC RESISTANCE EFFECTIVE ELEMENT, MAGNETIC HEAD, AND MAGNETIC RECORDING/ REPRODUCING APPARATUS

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a magnetic head including a vertical-conduction-type magnetoresistance effect element that can reduce the influence due to a vertical conduction magnetic field.

SOLUTION: A magnetic resistance effect film (1), an electrode (1), and a bias application film (3) are provided. The electrode (2) is arranged so that current is vertically energized onto the surface of the magnetoresistance effect film (1). The bias application film (3) is formed near the magnetoresistance effect film (1), and gives a bias magnetic field in a specific direction to the magnetoresistance effect film (1). At a side where the signal flux of the magnetoresistance effect film (1) flows in, the direction of a magnetic field in the bias application film (3) and the direction of the magnetic field generated by the current are not in parastate. Cancellation is made by the bias magnetic field and a sense current one at a portion where medium flux flows into a sensor magnetism detection section, thus suppressing reduction in permeability at the portion, and hence increasing the sensitivity of a sensor.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The magneto-resistive effect film and the electrode of the pair which enables energization of a current in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, Provide the bias impression film which gives a bias field in the parallel direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, and near the inflow part of the signal magnetic flux in:said magneto-resistive effect film The perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component characterized by the direction of the field of said bias impression film and the direction of the field generated according to the current energized in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film serving as anti-parallel substantially.

[Claim 2] The magneto-resistive effect film and the electrode of the pair which enables energization of a current in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, The bias impression film which gives a bias field in the parallel direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, The magnetic layer prepared so that signal magnetic flux might be led to said magneto-resistive effect film near the inflow part of the signal magnetic flux in said magneto-resistive effect film is provided. The perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component characterized by the direction of the field of said bias impression film and the direction of the field generated according to the current energized in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film serving as anti-parallel substantially in said magnetic layer.

[Claim 3] The perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 1 characterized by being formed so that the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of said magneto-resistive effect film and the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of said bias impression film may become the same flat-surface top.

[Claim 4] The perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 2 characterized by being formed so that the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of said magnetic layer and the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of said bias impression film may become the same flat-surface top.

[Claim 5] The magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 1 to 4 to which said magneto-resistive effect film is characterized by having the structure which sandwiched the nonmagnetic conductive layer between two-layer ferromagnetic layers.

[Claim 6] The magnetic head equipped with a perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component according to claim 1 to 5.

[Claim 7] The magnetic recorder and reproducing device characterized by providing a magnetic-recording medium and the magnetic head according to claim 6.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the magnetic head containing a perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component and a perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component, and the magnetic recorder and reproducing device which carried this magnetic head.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, in magnetic recording media, such as a hard disk drive unit, small and densification are progressing quickly and it counts upon densification being carried out further from now on. In order to attain densification in magnetic recording, while narrowing recording track width of face and raising a recording track consistency, it is necessary to raise, the recording density, i.e., the track recording density, of a longitudinal direction.

[0003] However, by the longitudinal recording method within a field, while an anti-field becomes large and causes the fall of a playback output as recording density becomes high, there is a trouble of it becoming impossible to perform stable record. In order to improve these troubles, the vertical recording method is proposed. A vertical recording method magnetizes and records a record medium on a film surface and a perpendicular direction, as compared with a longitudinal recording method, even if it raises recording density, there is little effect of an anti-field and the fall of a playback output etc. is controlled.

[0004] Conventionally, with an induction type head, although the induction type head has been used for playback of a medium signal for the longitudinal recording method and the vertical recording method, if the magnitude of magnetization which recording track width of face became narrow, and was recorded in connection with densification becomes small, sufficient regenerative-signal output will no longer be obtained. Then, even if the magnitude of the recorded magnetization became small, the AMR head with high playback sensibility using an anisotropy magneto-resistive effect (AMR) is developed, and it came to be used as the shielding mold reproducing head so that sufficient regenerative-signal output may be obtained. Recently, the spin bulb mold GMR head adapting giant magneto-resistance (GMR) with more high sensibility is used.

[0005] Furthermore, development of the magnetic head using the tunnel magneto-resistive effect (TMR) and CPP (Current Perpendicular to the Plane)-GMR component it is expected that high playback sensibility is, and research for utilization are also advanced. With these components, a sense current is perpendicularly passed by the film surface. The CPP-GMR component is indicated by JP,10-55512,A and the U.S. Pat. No. 5,668,688 official report. Thus, the magnetic head with high playback sensibility is developed, and by using them, even if record bit size becomes very small, playback of a record signal is attained.

[0006] In order to raise the track recording density of a recording track, it is necessary to narrow the gap of the magnetic head. In the magnetic head using the conventional magneto-resistive effect, the magneto-resistive effect component is formed in the head gap specified spacing during one pair of shielding. When a spin bulb GMR head also needs about 30nm as thickness of a magneto-resistive effect component and takes the insulation with shielding into consideration also with the AMR head, about 100nm is needed as spacing during shielding. Thus, in the conventional magnetic head, the limit which can narrow a head gap is about 100nm, and when raising track recording density, big constraint has produced it. The structure which forms a flux guide in a medium opposed face side, and the sensor section is retreated from a medium opposed face, and forms it from such a background since it corresponds to narrow gap-ization is proposed. Especially, it is necessary to install the electrode of a GMR component and a vertical pair between shielding, and such thickness serves as big constraint to narrow-gap-izing with the CPP-GMR component. So, in order to correspond to narrow gap-ization with a CPP-GMR component, it is effective that form a flux guide in a medium opposed face side, retreat an electrode section from a medium opposed face, and only a thin flux guide is arranged between shielding in a medium opposed face.

[0007] In order to control the Barkhausen noise (Barkhausen noise) in the magneto-resistive effect film, it is effective to install the bias film in the both ends of the magneto-resistive effect film, and to impress a bias field. However, when distance between bias film was narrowed as ** truck-ization progressed for the improvement in recording density, since a bias field started the magneto-resistive effect film too much strongly and flux reversal became difficult, this invention persons found out that the problem that the sensibility of a component falls arose.

[0008] Moreover, with the CIP(Current In Plane)-GMR component which energizes a sense current, the operating point was decided in the conventional film surface by balancing three fields of the current field which a sense current makes, the magnetostatic joint field from a pin layer to a free layer, and the layer joint field between pin

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layer-free layers. Since a sense current field is circularly added to a current core, it becomes impossible however, to use the design technique of the operating point mentioned above with the component which energizes a sense current at right angles to a film surface. And in the edge section of the electrode with which a sense current field supplies a sense current, most strongly, for this reason, the inflow of the medium magnetic flux to the magneto-resistive effect film of the electrode lower part which is a sensor magnetic force sencor is barred, and the sensibility of a sensor falls.

[0009] Solution sufficient with the configuration which these problems are suggested to neither JP,10-55512,A mentioned above nor U.S. Pat. No. 5,668,688, but is indicated by these reference is a difficult technical problem.

[0010] The problem that the inflow of medium magnetic flux is checked by the sense current field mentioned above becomes so remarkable that recording density increases (i.e., so that the size of the magneto-resistive effect component which is a sensor, and an electrode becomes small). For example, since it corresponds to the recording density exceeding 100Gbpsi, if size of an electrode is made below into 1 micrometer**, the inflow of the medium magnetic flux to the magneto-resistive effect film of the electrode lower part will be barred. Since it is necessary to energize a big sense current in order to obtain a certain amount of output when especially the size of an electrode is small, an above-mentioned trouble becomes remarkable.

[0011] (Electrode size and GMR film size) actually produced four kinds of CPP-GMR components which are (0.3micrometer**, 0.7micrometer**), (0.2micrometer**, 0.5micrometer**), and (0.1micrometer**, 0.3micrometer**), respectively (0.5micrometer**, 1.2micrometer**), the 5mA sense current was energized, and flux density distribution of the GMR film in the condition that the sense current field was added was investigated. Consequently, it was admitted that the flux density of the GMR film became strong notably in the edge section of an electrode compared with other fields with the CPP-GMR component whose (electrode size and GMR film size) are (0.5micrometer**, 1.2micrometer**) as electrode size becomes small, although the flux density of the GMR film was small enough. The relation between electrode size and the maximum magnetic flux density in a hysteresis loop of the GMR film in the edge section of an electrode is shown in drawing 22. Moreover, the relation between the magnitude of a sense current and the maximum magnetic flux density in a hysteresis loop of the GMR film in the edge section of an electrode is shown in drawing 23 about the CPP-GMR component whose (electrode size and GMR film size) are (0.1micrometer**, 0.3micrometer**).

[0012] These results are judged synthetically, when electrode size is [a sense current value] 1mA or more below in 0.3 micrometer**, measures with which the inflow of the medium magnetic flux to the electrode lower part is not barred when a sense current value is 3mA or more below in 0.1 micrometer** are taken especially, and it is necessary to raise the sensibility of a sensor.

[0013] Moreover, in magnetic storage, such as a hard disk, the flying height which is the distance of the magnetic head and a storage is falling gradually as high recording density-ization progresses. The fall of such the flying height means that the probability for a head to collide with the slight projection of a storage increases, and TA (Thermal Asperity) noise actually poses a problem. Therefore, it is desirable to adopt the head structure of the York mold which draws magnetic flux in a magneto-resistive effect component through York so that a magneto-resistive effect component may not be exposed to a direct medium opposed face. Since the level York mold magnetic head which prepares a magneto-resistive effect component also among the York mold magnetic heads so that the film surface may be parallel to a medium opposed face can install the whole magneto-resistive effect component near the medium, it is advantageous. Also in such the York mold magnetic head, when a strong bias field is impressed or a strong sense current field is impressed, there is a problem that the sensibility of a sensor falls and it is necessary to raise the sensibility of a sensor.

[0014]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The purpose of this invention is to offer the magnetic head containing the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component which can reduce the effect of a perpendicular energization field and a bias field, and can raise sensibility, and this perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component, and the magnetic recorder and reproducing device which carried this magnetic head.

[0015]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component which takes like 1 voice as for this invention The magneto-resistive effect film and the electrode of the pair which enables energization of a current in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, Provide the bias impression film which gives a bias field in the parallel direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, and near the inflow part of the signal magnetic flux in said magneto-resistive effect film It is characterized by the direction of the field of said bias impression film and the direction of the field generated according to the current energized in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film serving as anti-parallel substantially.

[0016] The perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other modes of this invention The magneto-resistive effect film and the electrode of the pair which enables energization of a current in the perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, The bias impression film which gives a bias field in the parallel direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film, The magnetic layer prepared so that signal magnetic flux might be led to said magneto-resistive effect film near the inflow part of the signal magnetic flux in said magneto-resistive effect film is provided. It is characterized by the direction of the field of said bias impression film and the direction of the field generated according to the current energized in the

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perpendicular direction to the film surface of said magneto-resistive effect film serving as anti-parallel substantially in said magnetic layer.

[0017] The magnetic layer prepared in the side into which the signal magnetic flux of the above-mentioned magneto-resistive effect film flows functions as a flux guide which introduces signal magnetic flux to the magneto-resistive effect film. Among magneto-resistive effect film, the whole magneto-resistive effect film is sufficient, and soft magnetism layers, such as NiFe prepared apart from the magneto-resistive effect film, are [the magnetic layer which extended the free layer to the medium opposed face side, and was formed is sufficient as this magnetic layer, and] sufficient as it.

[0018]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The magneto-resistive effect film may be TMR film, or may be CPP-GMR film. What has the structure which sandwiched the conductive nonmagnetic interlayer, for example between two-layer ferromagnetic layers as GMR film contained in the CPP-GMR film is mentioned. With this structure, when one ferromagnetic layer carries out the laminating for example, of the antiferromagnetism layer, the ferromagnetic layer of another side functions as a magnetization fixing layer (pin layer) which magnetization fixed as a magnetization free layer (free layer) which magnetization rotates freely by the external magnetic field. in addition, these layers — in addition, a substrate layer, a protective layer, etc. may be prepared.

[0019] As bias impression film, antiferromagnetism film, such as hard magnetic films, such as CoPt, and PtMn, IrMn, can be used. The bias impression film of a pair is prepared in the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film so that a bias field may be impressed in the predetermined direction along with the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film. The bias impression film may be adjoined and installed in the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film, may be installed in the bottom of the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film, or a top, and it may be installed so that a part of both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film may be made to overlap. As for these installation approaches, it is desirable to choose according to magnetic properties and thickness of the bias impression film in combination which requires the optimal bias field for the magneto-resistive effect film.

[0020] The electrode of a pair is prepared in the upper and lower sides of the magneto-resistive effect film so that a current may be energized in the almost perpendicular direction to the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film. An electrode may be formed by electric conduction film, such as Cu, and may use the parts of parts other than the free layer of the magneto-resistive effect film, for example, a protective coat, the antiferromagnetism film, and a pin layer as an electrode. As for these electrodes, it is desirable to prepare in the center section of the magneto-resistive effect film so that it may separate from the bias impression film prepared in the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film and may retreat from a medium opposed face. Thus, if an electrode is prepared, the magneto-resistive effect film which exists between an electrode and a medium opposed face will function as a flux guide. In addition, as mentioned above, a part of free layer which extended and was formed in the medium opposed face side is sufficient as a flux guide, and the soft magnetism layer prepared apart from the magneto-resistive effect film is sufficient as it. Thus, the electrode with which the magneto-resistive effect film was installed up and down is making the pillar configuration, can avoid the field where it is near the bias impression film, and sensibility becomes low in response to a strong bias field, and can extract and energize a sense current only on the magneto-resistive effect film of the field where sensibility is high. For this reason, when the GMR film is used as magneto-resistive effect film, it is advantageous to making current distribution in that film the optimal. In addition, since it is difficult for the magneto-resistive effect film to form the electrode of the almost same magnitude without a location gap up and down, it is desirable to mitigate the effect of a location gap error by making one of electrodes large compared with the electrode of another side.

[0021] When preparing the magnetic layer considered as a flux guide apart from the magneto-resistive effect film, as for this magnetic layer, it is desirable to become the configuration which touches the free layer of the magneto-resistive effect film, but if installation of magnetic flux is possible in a free layer, it will not be limited to this configuration. For example, the free layer and the magnetic layer as a flux guide do not need to touch, and a nonmagnetic thin adhesion layer etc. may be minded among these.

[0022] Moreover, although it is desirable to become the configuration which touches the bias impression film as for the magnetic layer as a flux guide, if impression of sufficient bias field for extent in which magnetization is stabilized by the bias impression film at the edge of this magnetic layer is possible, it will not be limited to this configuration. For example, the magnetic layer which carries out a flux guide with the bias impression film does not need to touch, and the nonmagnetic thin adhesion film etc. may be minded among these.

[0023] As for the bias impression film, it is desirable to prepare in the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film including a flux guide. In this case, the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of a flux guide may be formed so that it may become the same flat-surface top as the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the bias impression film. Moreover, a part of edge by the side of the medium opposed face of a flux guide may be formed so that it may project to a medium side rather than the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the bias impression film.

[0024] With the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component of this operation gestalt, the field of the bias impression film and the sense current field energized at right angles to the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film become the side by which signal magnetic flux flows into a sensor magnetic force sencor with anti-parallel substantially, and it works in the direction negated mutually. For this reason, the permeability of the side which flows into a sensor magnetic force sencor can be raised, and the signal magnetic flux of the magneto-resistive effect film can obtain the operating point when a magneto-resistive effect component is

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the optimal, and can raise the sensibility of a sensor. In addition, it is not necessary to necessarily negate a bias field and a sense current field completely, and if single domain-ization is attained applying a weak bias field to a signal magnetic-flux inflow side rather, they can also control a Barkhausen noise. Thus, if it is made for a sense current field and a bias field to serve as anti-parallel and each field is appropriately set to a medium opposed face side, two effectiveness of the improvement in an output and Barkhausen noise control can be reconciled.

[0025] Moreover, when the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of a flux guide and the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the bias impression film are formed so that it may become the same flat-surface top, there is an advantage that a bias field becomes stability in a flux guide, and also a production process also becomes easy.

[0026] This operation gestalt is especially effective, when an electrode is made small and a sense current value is enlarged, since it corresponds to high recording density-ization. Especially, when electrode size is [a sense current value] 1mA or more below in 0.3 micrometer**, when a sense current value is 3mA or more below in 0.1 micrometer**, specifically, remarkable effectiveness is acquired.

[0027] The side into which, as for the sense current I, the signal magnetic flux of the magneto-resistive effect film flows — the direction of a bias field — receiving — substantial — anti- — when the case where it energizes so that a sense current field [****] may occur is made into the direction of +, it is desirable to set it as the range of 0< I<20mA. If this condition is fulfilled, it will become compatible [the improvement in an output, and Barkhausen noise control]. Although it is desirable at this time to enable it to oppose bias magnetic field strength in sense current magnetic field strength, if a sense current is too large, generation of heat of a component will pose a problem. It is more desirable to set the sense current I as the range of 3<=I<15mA from these viewpoints.

[0028] In the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component of other operation gestalten, the die length of the opposed face to signal magnetic flux may make the magneto-resistive effect film larger than the depth from the opposed face to signal magnetic flux. In this case, a shape anisotropy field is given to the magneto-resistive effect film, and magnetization of the magneto-resistive effect film becomes stability at a longitudinal direction. Moreover, since a sense current field, a bias field, and a shape anisotropy field are impressed, while raising the permeability of the magneto-resistive effect film and coming to stabilize the optimal operating point, single domain-ization of the magneto-resistive effect film also becomes easy, and can raise sensibility as a result.

[0029] In the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component of the operation gestalt of further others, the die length of the opposed face to signal magnetic flux may make an electrode larger than the depth from the opposed face to signal magnetic flux. In this case, a sense current field becomes linear and the above-mentioned effectiveness comes to be acquired by stability.

[0030] The above perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect components are applicable to a shielding mold head combining one pair of magnetic shielding formed so that this might be inserted. In this case, a flux guide is prepared in the medium opposed face side of the magneto-resistive effect film, and only a flux guide is arranged between shielding and it is made for a bias field and the field generated according to the sense current energized at right angles to the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film to serve as anti-parallel substantially by the medium opposed face side in a medium opposed face.

[0031] The above perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect components are also applicable to the York mold head combining magnetic York where signal magnetic flux is introduced. For example, what is necessary is just to make it the direction of the field generated according to the sense current which arranges in the location corresponding to the part which shifts an electrode from right above [gap] in the case of a level York mold, and becomes an insensitive part substantially on York etc., and is energized at right angles [in the part of the magneto-resistive effect film of gap right above highest / of sensibility] to the direction of a bias field and a film surface serve as anti-parallel substantially.

[0032] In the operation gestalt of further others, the magnetic recorder and reproducing device which has a magnetic-recording medium and the above magnetic heads is also offered. In case magnetic recording is reproduced using this magnetic recorder and reproducing device, a sense current is energized so that the direction of the field of the bias impression film and the direction of the field generated according to the sense current energized at right angles to the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film may serve as anti-parallel substantially by the side into which the signal magnetic flux from a magnetic-recording medium flows.

[0033] Hereafter, it explains, referring to a drawing about the operation gestalt of this invention. Drawing 1 is the top view of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning 1 operation gestalt. In this drawing, the bottom serves as a medium opposed face. As magneto-resistive effect film 1, the tunnel junction mold magneto-resistive effect film (TMR film) or the CPP-GMR film is used, and the laminating of the film is carried out in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with space. The electrode 2 which consists of Cu is formed in the upper and lower sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. The bias impression film 3 and 3 which becomes the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 from CoPt is arranged.

[0034] The example of the TMR film is shown in drawing 2. The TMR film of drawing 2 has the structure which carried out the laminating of the protective layer 26 which consists of the substrate layer 21 which consists of Ta, the antiferromagnetism layer 22 which consists of PtMn, the magnetization fixing layer (pin layer) 23 which consists of three layer membranes of CoFe/Ru/CoFe, the tunnel junction layer 24 which consists of AlOx, a magnetization free layer (free layer) 25 which consists of bilayer film of CoFe/NiFe, and Ta.

[0035] The example of the CPP-GMR film is shown in drawing 3. The CPP-GMR film of drawing 3 has the structure which carried out the laminating of the protective layer 36 which consists of the substrate layer 31 which consists

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of Ta, the antiferromagnetism layer 32 which consists of PtMn, the magnetization fixing layer (pin layer) 33 which consists of three layer membranes of CoFe/Ru/CoFe, the nonmagnetic interlayer (spacer layer) 34 who consists of Cu, a magnetization free layer (free layer) 35 which consists of bilayer film of CoFe/NiFe, and Ta.

[0036] In addition, the built-up sequence of each class of the TMR film or the CPP-GMR film may be drawing 2 or drawing 3, and reverse. Moreover, the TMR film or the CPP-GMR film may serve as a dual mold with which the pin layer was prepared in the vertical symmetry focusing on the free layer.

[0037] Drawing 4 is the sectional view of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component of drawing 1. As shown in this drawing, the bias impression film 3 and 3 is adjoined and installed in the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. In addition, the bias impression film may be arranged by the method as shown in drawing 5 or drawing 6. Drawing 5 shows the case where the magneto-resistive effect film 1 is made to overlap to the bias impression film 3 and 3. Drawing 6 shows the case where the bias impression film 3 and 3 is installed on the magneto-resistive effect film 1.

[0038] When using a hard magnetic film like CoPt as bias impression film 3 and 3, the structure of drawing 4 or drawing 5 is desirable. When using antiferromagnetism film like PtMn as bias impression film 3 and 3, the structure of drawing 5 or drawing 6 is desirable.

[0039] As shown in drawing 1, the magnetization direction of the bias impression film 3 and 3 which consists of CoPt is set up in the leftward direction-of drawing. A sense current is energized upward from under space to an electrode 2 at right angles to the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, and a sense current field generates it in the direction shown by the arrow head of drawing centering on an electrode 2. Consequently, the direction of the field of the bias impression film 3 and the direction of the field generated according to the current energized at right angles to the film surface of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 serve as anti-parallel substantially by the medium opposed face side into which the signal magnetic flux from a medium flows. Thus, since a bias field and a sense current field work in the direction negated mutually by the medium opposed face side, the signal magnetic flux of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 can control decline in the permeability of the side which flows into a sensor magnetic force sencor. Moreover, since medium magnetic flux flows into the magneto-resistive effect film directly under an electrode which is a magnetic force sencor, without being barred by the sense current field, it can maintain sensibility. On the other hand, in a medium opposed face and the opposite side, since both fields overlap, a strong bias field is added, and the permeability in the part falls. However, this part is not a magnetic force sencor, either, and since it does not contribute to the suction of medium magnetic flux, either, it does not pose a problem.

[0040] Drawing 7 is the top view of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten. The component of drawing 7 has the same structure as drawing 1 except having retreated and having formed the bias impression film 3 rather than the medium opposed face of the magneto-resistive effect film 1.

[0041] With this structure, when the field from the bias film is too strong like [when the distance between bias film is narrow], it becomes possible to apply the field of moderate magnitude to the medium opposed face side of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, for example.

[0042] Drawing 8 and drawing 9 are the top views of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten, respectively. The component of drawing 8 has the same structure as drawing 1 except having lost the part of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 which has not lapped with the electrode 2 in a medium opposed face and the opposite side. Moreover, the component of drawing 9 has the same structure as drawing 7 except having lost the part of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 which has not lapped with the electrode 2 in a medium opposed face and the opposite side.

[0043] Since the part to which a bias field and a sense current field overlap a medium opposed face in the opposite side, permeability falls, and it is hard coming to move magnetization by the component of drawing 8 or drawing 9 is lost, it can prevent being hard coming to move magnetization of other parts under the effect of the part, and the fall of sensibility can be prevented as a whole.

[0044] Drawing 10 is the top view of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten. The magneto-resistive effect film 1 in this component has the die length larger than the depth from a medium opposed face which meets a medium opposed face, and has the same structure as drawing 8 except being an oblong configuration along with the medium opposed face. In this case, since lateral shape anisotropy can be given to the magneto-resistive effect film 1 and an anisotropy field can be added to a bias field from the bias impression film 3 and 3, the magneto-resistive effect film 1 can be single-domain-ized easily.

[0045] Drawing 11 and drawing 12 are the top views of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten, respectively. The component of drawing 11 has the same structure as drawing 10 except having retreated and having formed the bias impression film 3 rather than the medium opposed face of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. The component of drawing 12 has the same structure as drawing 11 except making width of face for a lobe of the magneto-resistive effect component 1 by the side of a medium opposed face into width of face almost comparable as an electrode 2.

[0046] With such structures, while making the magneto-resistive effect film easy to add a shape anisotropy field to the magneto-resistive effect film with a bias field, and to single-domain-ize, when the field from the bias film is too strong like [when the distance between bias film is narrow], it becomes possible to apply the field of moderate magnitude to the medium opposed face side of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, for example.

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[0047] Drawing 13 is the top view of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten. The electrode 2 in the component of drawing 13 has the die length larger than the depth from a medium opposed face which meets a medium opposed face, and has the same structure as drawing 1 except being an oblong configuration along with the medium opposed face.

[0048] With this structure, the linearity of the sense current field by the side of a medium opposed face becomes good, and counter acting effect with a bias field improves. Therefore, bias control of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 by the side of a medium opposed face becomes easier.

[0049] Drawing 14 and drawing 15 are the top views of the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten, respectively. The component of drawing 14 has the same structure as drawing 13 except having retreated and having formed the bias impression film 3 rather than the medium opposed face of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. The component of drawing 15 has the same structure as drawing 14 except making width of face for a lobe of the magneto-resistive effect component 1 by the side of a medium opposed face into width of face almost comparable as an electrode 2.

[0050] With such structures, both, when the field from the bias film is too strong like [in case / with a narrow distance for example, between bias film / the linearity of the sense current field by the side of a medium opposed face becomes good and counter acting effect with a bias field improves], it becomes possible to apply the field of moderate magnitude to the medium opposed face side of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. Therefore, bias control of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 by the side of a medium opposed face becomes still easier.

[0051] Still like drawing 15, if width of face for a lobe of the magneto-resistive effect component 1 by the side of a medium opposed face is made into width of face almost comparable as an electrode 2, lateral shape anisotropy can be given to the magneto-resistive effect film 1. Therefore, a shape anisotropy field can be added to a bias field, and the magneto-resistive effect film can be single-domain-ized still more easily.

[0052] Among the structures of the magneto-resistive effect component shown in drawing 1 and drawing 7 – drawing 15, it is desirable like drawing 1, drawing 8, drawing 10, and drawing 13 that the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 and the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the bias impression film 3 have become the same flat-surface top. In this case, the effectiveness that a bias field becomes stability at the medium opposed face side of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, and also a production process also becomes easy is acquired.

[0053] Moreover, in drawing 1, drawing 8, drawing 10, and drawing 13, some magneto-resistive effect film 1 is used as a flux guide, and the thickness of a flux guide part is equal to the thickness of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 of other parts. The soft magnetism layer 11 which consists of NiFe etc. is formed between the magneto-resistive effect film 1 and a medium opposed face, a flux guide is formed, and you may make it the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the soft magnetism layer 11 and the edge by the side of the medium opposed face of the bias impression film 3 become the same flat-surface top on the other hand, as shown in drawing 16. In addition, the flux guide shown in drawing 16 may extend and form only the free layer of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 in a medium opposed face side. Also in this case, the effectiveness that a bias field becomes stability at the medium opposed face side of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, and also a production process also becomes easy since the process which forms a new layer is not required is acquired. Moreover, if it forms as mentioned above in a part of magnetic layer which was able to prepare the flux guide independently [the magneto-resistive effect film 1], or free layer of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, since a flux guide can be made thinner, it is advantageous to narrow-gap-izing.

[0054] Drawing 17 is the perspective view of the shielding mold magnetic head concerning 1 operation gestalt. In this drawing, the bottom serves as a medium opposed face. The electrode 2 which consists of Cu is formed in the upper and lower sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. The bias impression film 3 and 3 which becomes the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 from CoPt is arranged. This magneto-resistive effect component has the same structure as drawing 1. Furthermore, the magnetic shielding 4 which consists of NiFe in contact with an electrode 2 is arranged. In addition, in this drawing, magnetic shielding of one side is omitting illustration.

[0055] Drawing 18 is the top view which looked at the shielding mold magnetic head of drawing 17 from the medium opposed face. Electrodes 2 and 2 are formed in the upper and lower sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. The bias impression film 3 and 3 is arranged at the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. Between the shielding 4 of a pair, and 4, these members are pinched, after the insulator layer 6 which consists of aluminum 2O3 etc. has insulated. With this operation gestalt, magnetic shielding 4 is formed as what serves as an energization lead.

[0056] In this shielding mold magnetic head, the energization direction of a sense current is decided so that the magnetization direction and sense current field of the bias impression film 3 which consist of CoPt by the medium opposed face side may be offset. Therefore, since medium magnetic flux flows into the magneto-resistive effect film 1 of electrode 2 directly under which is a magnetic force sencor, without being barred by the sense current field, the sensibility of the shielding mold magnetic head is maintainable.

[0057] In addition, drawing 1, drawing 7, or drawing 15 showed the example for which the end face by the side of the medium opposed face of an electrode 2 retreated from the end face by the side of the medium opposed face of the magneto-resistive effect film 1. However, since the direction of a bias field and the direction of a sense current field should just be anti-parallel substantially by the side into which the signal magnetic flux of the magneto-resistive effect film flows theoretically, not only these examples but the gestalt by which the end face by the side of the medium opposed face of an electrode 2 was formed in the medium twist rather than the same field as the end

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face of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 or it is included in this invention.

[0058] Drawing 19 is the perspective view of the level York mold magnetic head concerning 1 operation gestalt. In this drawing, the bottom serves as a medium opposed face. The electrode 2 which consists of Cu is formed on the magneto-resistive effect film 1. The bias impression film 3 and 3 which becomes the both sides of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 from CoPt is arranged. Furthermore, magnetic York 5 which consists of NiFe which specifies a magnetic gap is formed in the magneto-resistive effect film 1 bottom. The electrode 2 is formed in the location [right above / the gap of magnetic York 5] shifted, and the magneto-resistive effect film 1 is located right above the gap of magnetic York 5. Magnetic York 5 located in the electrode 2 bottom functions as an electrode of another side.

[0059] In this level York mold magnetic head, the energization direction of a sense current is decided so that the magnetization direction and sense current field of the bias impression film 3 which consist of CoPt by the medium opposed face side may be offset in the part of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 located right above the gap of magnetic York 5. Therefore, since medium magnetic flux flows into the magneto-resistive effect film 1 which is a magnetic force sencor, without being barred by the sense current field, the sensibility of the level York mold magnetic head is maintainable.

[0060] Drawing 20 is the perspective view of the level York mold magnetic head concerning other operation gestalten. The level York mold magnetic head of drawing 20 has the same structure as drawing 19 except forming two electrodes 2 and 2 in the location [right above / the magnetic gap of magnetic York 5] shifted to a magnetic gap in the symmetrical location. Moreover, although illustration is omitted, a part for the magnetic gap point of magnetic York 5 is fill uped with Cu with conductivity higher than the magneto-resistive effect film. From one electrode 2, a sense current passes along Cu of the magneto-resistive effect film 1, magnetic York 5, and the magnetic gap section, magnetic York 5, and the magneto-resistive effect film 1 by this level York mold magnetic head, and flows to the electrode 2 of another side by it.

[0061] Also by this level York mold magnetic head, in the part of the magneto-resistive effect film 1 located right above the gap of magnetic York 5, the energization direction of a sense current is decided so that the magnetization direction and sense current field of the bias impression film 3 which consist of CoPt at a medium opposed face side may be offset. Therefore, since medium magnetic flux flows into the magneto-resistive effect film 1 which is a magnetic force sencor, without being barred by the sense current field, the sensibility of the level York mold magnetic head is maintainable.

[0062] Next, the magnetic-head assembly which carried the magnetic head concerning this invention, and the magnetic disk drive which carried this magnetic-head assembly are explained.

[0063] Drawing 21 (a) is the perspective view of a magnetic-head assembly which carried the CPP-GMR head. An actuator arm 201 has the bobbin section which the hole for being fixed to the fixed shaft in a magnetic disk drive is prepared, and holds the drive coil which is not illustrated. The suspension 202 is being fixed to the end of an actuator arm 201. The head slider 203 which carried the CPP-GMR head is attached at the tip of a suspension 202. Moreover, the writing of a signal and the lead wire 204 for reading are wired in a suspension 202, the end of this lead wire 204 is connected to each electrode of the CPP-GMR head included in the head slider 203, and the other end of lead wire 204 is connected to the electrode pad 205.

[0064] Drawing 21 (b) is the perspective view showing the internal structure of the magnetic disk drive which carried the magnetic-head assembly shown in drawing 21 (a). A spindle 212 is equipped with a magnetic disk 211, and it rotates by the motor which answers a control signal from the driving gear control section which is not illustrated and which is not illustrated. It is fixed to the fixed shaft 213 and the actuator arm 201 is supporting the suspension 202 and the head slider 203 at the tip. If a magnetic disk 211 rotates, the medium opposed face of the head slider 203 will be held where specified quantity surfacing is carried out from the front face of a magnetic disk 211, and will perform informational record playback. The voice coil motor 214 which is one sort of a linear motor is formed in the end face of an actuator arm 201. A voice coil motor 214 consists of magnetic circuits which consist of a permanent magnet countered and arranged so that the drive coil which was able to be wound up in the bobbin section of an actuator arm 201, and which is not illustrated, and this coil may be put, and opposite York. An actuator arm 201 is held by the ball bearing which was prepared in two upper and lower sides of the fixed shaft 213 and which is not illustrated, and has come to be able to perform rotation sliding free with a voice coil motor 214.

[0065] The magneto-resistive effect component concerning the various operation gestalten of this invention can be applied not only to a longitudinal magnetic-recording method but to the magnetic head or the magnetic recorder and reproducing device of vertical magnetic recording, and can acquire the same effectiveness. The thing equipped with the fixed record medium is sufficient as a magnetic recorder and reproducing device, and its record medium may be removable.

[0066] The magneto-resistive effect component concerning the various operation gestalten of this invention can be magnetically applied also to MRAM (Magnetic Random Access Memory) which can rewrite information, and can acquire the same effectiveness.

[0067] In addition, based on the operation gestalt mentioned above, all the magneto-resistive effect components, the magnetic head, and the magnetic storage regenerative apparatus which this contractor can carry out by carrying out a design change suitably also belong to the range of this invention similarly.

[0068]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained in full detail above, according to this invention, the magnetic head containing the perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component which can reduce the effect of a

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perpendicular energization field, and this perpendicular energization mold magneto-resistive effect component, and the magnetic recorder and reproducing device which carried this magnetic head can be offered.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

- [Drawing 1] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning 1 operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 2] The sectional view of the magneto-resistive effect film which consists of TMR film.
- [Drawing 3] The sectional view of the magneto-resistive effect film which consists of CPP-GMR film.
- [Drawing 4] The sectional view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning 1 operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 5] The sectional view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 6] The sectional view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 7] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 8] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 9] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 10] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 11] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 12] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 13] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 14] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 15] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 16] The top view of the magneto-resistive effect component concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 17] The perspective view of the shielding mold head concerning 1 operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 18] The top view which looked at the shielding mold head of drawing 17 from the medium opposed face.
- [Drawing 19] The perspective view of the level York mold head concerning 1 operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 20] The perspective view of the level York mold head concerning other operation gestalten.
- [Drawing 21] The perspective view of the magnetic-head assembly concerning 1 operation gestalt, and the perspective view showing the internal structure of a magnetic disk drive.
- [Drawing 22] Drawing showing the relation between electrode size and the maximum magnetic flux density in a hysteresis loop applied to the magneto-resistive effect film in the edge section of an electrode.
- [Drawing 23] Drawing showing the relation between the magnitude of a sense current, and the maximum magnetic flux density in a hysteresis loop applied to the magneto-resistive effect film in the edge section of an electrode.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 — Magneto-resistive effect film
- 2 — Electrode
- 3 — Bias impression film
- 4 — Magnetic shielding
- 5 — Magnetic York
- 6 — Insulator layer
- 11 — Soft magnetism layer
- 21 — Substrate layer
- 22 — Antiferromagnetism layer
- 23 — Magnetization fixing layer (pin layer)
- 24 — Tunnel junction layer
- 25 — Magnetization free layer (free layer)
- 26 — Protective layer
- 31 — Substrate layer
- 32 — Antiferromagnetism layer
- 33 — Magnetization fixing layer (pin layer)
- 34 — Nonmagnetic interlayer (spacer layer)
- 35 — Magnetization free layer (free layer)
- 36 — Protective layer
- 201 — Actuator arm
- 202 — Suspension
- 203 — Head slider
- 204 — Lead wire
- 205 — Electrode pad

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- 211 — Magnetic disk
- 212 — Spindle
- 213 — Fixed shaft
- 214 — Voice coil motor

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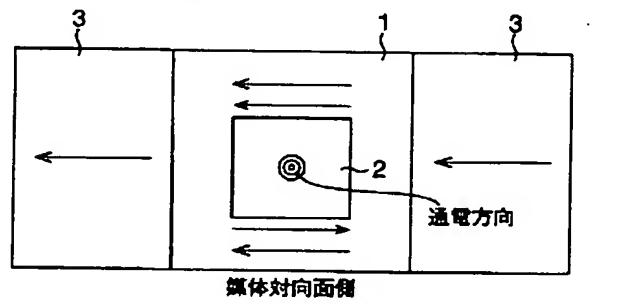
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(54)【発明の名称】 垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子、磁気ヘッド、および磁気記録再生装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 垂直通電型磁界の影響を低減させることができ垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子を含む磁気ヘッドを提供する。

【解決手段】 磁気抵抗効果膜(1)と、磁気抵抗効果膜(1)の膜面に垂直に電流を通電するように配置された電極(2)と、磁気抵抗効果膜(1)の近傍に形成され、磁気抵抗効果膜(1)に所定方向のバイアス磁界を付与するバイアス印加膜(3)とを具備し、磁気抵抗効果膜(1)の信号磁束が流入する側において、バイアス印加膜(3)の磁界の方向と前記電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となっている。媒体磁束がセンサー感磁部へ流入する部分でバイアス磁界とセンサ電流磁界が打ち消す方向に働くため、この部分での透磁率の低下を抑制することができ、センサーの感度を高めることができる。



←:センス電流磁界方向
←:ハード盤バイアス磁界方向

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】 磁気抵抗効果膜と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に電流を通電可能とする一对の電極と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して平行な方向にバイアス磁界を付与するバイアス印加膜とを具備し、前記磁気抵抗効果膜における信号磁束の流入部分の近傍で、前記バイアス印加膜の磁界の方向と前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に通電される電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となることを特徴とする垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項 2】 磁気抵抗効果膜と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に電流を通電可能とする一对の電極と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して平行な方向にバイアス磁界を付与するバイアス印加膜と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜における信号磁束の流入部分の近傍に信号磁束を前記磁気抵抗効果膜に導くよう設けられた磁性層とを具備し、前記磁性層において前記バイアス印加膜の磁界の方向と前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に通電される電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となることを特徴とする垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項 3】 前記磁気抵抗効果膜の媒体対向面側の端部と、前記バイアス印加膜の媒体対向面側の端部とが、同一平面上となるように形成されていることを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項 4】 前記磁性層の媒体対向面側の端部と、前記バイアス印加膜の媒体対向面側の端部とが、同一平面上となるように形成されていることを特徴とする請求項 2 に記載の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項 5】 前記磁気抵抗効果膜が、2 層の強磁性層の間に非磁性導電層を挟んだ構造を有することを特徴とする請求項 1 ないし 4 のいずれかに記載の磁気抵抗効果素子。

【請求項 6】 請求項 1 ないし 5 のいずれかに記載の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子を備える磁気ヘッド。

【請求項 7】 磁気記録媒体と、請求項 6 に記載の磁気ヘッドとを具備したことを特徴とする磁気記録再生装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子、垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子を含む磁気ヘッド、およびこの磁気ヘッドを搭載した磁気記録再生装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】近年、ハードディスク装置などの磁気記録装置では急速に小型・高密度化が進んでおり、今後さらに高密度化されることが見込まれている。磁気記録において高密度化を達成するには、記録トラック幅を狭くして記録トラック密度を高めるとともに、長手方向の記

録密度すなわち線記録密度を高める必要がある。

【0003】しかし、面内の長手記録方式では記録密度が高くなるにつれ反磁界が大きくなり、再生出力の低下を招くとともに安定な記録が行えなくなるという問題点がある。これらの問題点を改善するために垂直記録方式が提案されている。垂直記録方式は記録媒体を膜面と垂直方向に磁化して記録するものであり、長手記録方式と比較して、記録密度を高めても反磁界の影響が少なく再生出力の低下などが抑制される。

【0004】従来、長手記録方式、垂直記録方式とともに、媒体信号の再生には誘導型ヘッドが用いられてきたが、誘導型ヘッドでは高密度化に伴い記録トラック幅が狭くなり記録された磁化の大きさが小さくなると、十分な再生信号出力が得られなくなる。そこで、記録された磁化の大きさが小さくなつても十分な再生信号出力が得られるように、異方性磁気抵抗効果（AMR）を用いた再生感度の高いAMRヘッドが開発され、シールド型再生ヘッドとして用いられるようになった。最近では、巨大磁気抵抗効果（GMR）を応用した、より感度の高いスピナーバルブ型GMRヘッドが用いられるようになっている。

【0005】また、さらに高い再生感度が期待されるトンネル磁気抵抗効果（TMR）やCPP（Current Perpendicular to the Plane）-GMR素子を用いた磁気ヘッドの開発と実用化のための研究も進められている。これらの素子では膜面に垂直方向にセンス電流が流される。CPP-GMR素子は、例えば特開平10-55512号公報および米国特許第5,668,688号公報に開示されている。このように再生感度の高い磁気ヘッドが開発され、それらを用いることによって、記録ピットサイズがごく小さくなつても記録信号の再生が可能になってきた。

【0006】記録トラックの線記録密度を高めるためには、磁気ヘッドのギャップを狭くする必要がある。従来の磁気抵抗効果を用いた磁気ヘッドでは1対のシールド間の間隔で規定されるヘッドギャップ内に磁気抵抗効果素子を形成している。AMRヘッドでもスピナーバルブGMRヘッドでも、磁気抵抗効果素子の厚さとして30nm程度を必要とし、シールドとの絶縁を考慮するとシールド間の間隔として100nm程度を必要とする。このように従来の磁気ヘッドにおいては、ヘッドギャップを狭めることができる限度は100nm程度であり、線記録密度を高める上で大きな制約が生じている。こうした背景から、狭ギャップ化に対応するために、媒体対向面側にフラックスガイドを形成し、センサー部を媒体対向面から後退させて形成する構造が提案されている。特に、CPP-GMR素子では、シールド間にGMR素子と上下一対の電極を設置する必要があり、これらの厚さが狭ギャップ化に対して大きな制約となっている。そこで、CPP-GMR素子で狭ギャップ化に対応するため

には、媒体対向面側にフラックスガイドを形成して電極部分を媒体対向面から後退させ、媒体対向面においてシールド間に薄いフラックスガイドのみが配置されるようになることが有効である。

【0007】磁気抵抗効果膜におけるバルクハウゼンノイズ (Barkhausen noise) を抑制するためには、磁気抵抗効果膜の両端にバイアス膜を設置してバイアス磁界を印加することが有効である。しかし、本発明者らは、記録密度向上のために狭トラック化が進むにつれ、バイアス膜間の距離を狭くすると、磁気抵抗効果膜にバイアス磁界が強くかかりすぎて磁化反転が困難になるため素子の感度が低下するという問題が生ずることを見出した。

【0008】また、従来の膜面内にセンス電流を通電するCIP (Current In Plane) - GMR素子では、センス電流が作り出す電流磁界、ピン層からフリー層への静磁結合磁界、およびピン層-フリー層間の層間結合磁界という3つの磁界のバランスを取ることで動作点を決めていた。しかし、膜面に垂直にセンス電流を通電する素子では、センス電流磁界が電流中心に対し円形に加わるため、上述した動作点の設計手法が使えなくなる。しかも、センス電流磁界はセンス電流を供給する電極のエッジ部で最も強くかかるために、センサー感磁部である電極下部の磁気抵抗効果膜への媒体磁束の流入が妨げられ、センサーの感度が低下する。

【0009】これらの問題は前述した特開平10-55512号公報および米国特許第5,668,688号のいずれにも示唆されておらず、これらの文献に開示されている構成では十分な解決が困難な課題である。

【0010】上述したセンス電流磁界によって媒体磁束の流入が阻害されるという問題は、記録密度が高まるほどすなわちセンサーである磁気抵抗効果素子および電極のサイズが小さくなるほど顕著になる。例えば、100Gbpsiを越える記録密度に対応するために、電極のサイズを1μm□以下にすると、電極下部の磁気抵抗効果膜への媒体磁束の流入が妨げられる。特に電極のサイズが小さい場合、ある程度の出力を得るために大きなセンス電流を通電する必要があるので、上述の問題点が顕著になる。

【0011】実際に、(電極サイズ、GMR膜サイズ)が、それぞれ(0.5μm□、1.2μm□)、(0.3μm□、0.7μm□)、(0.2μm□、0.5μm□)、(0.1μm□、0.3μm□)である4種類のCPP-GMR素子を作製し、5mAのセンス電流を通電して、センス電流磁界が加わった状態でのGMR膜の磁束密度分布を調べた。その結果、(電極サイズ、GMR膜サイズ)が(0.5μm□、1.2μm□)であるCPP-GMR素子ではGMR膜の磁束密度は十分小さかったが、電極サイズが小さくなるにつれて、他の領域に比べて電極のエッジ部において、GMR膜の磁束密度が顕著に強くなることが認められた。図22に、電極

サイズと、電極のエッジ部におけるGMR膜の最大磁束密度との関係を示す。また、図23に、(電極サイズ、GMR膜サイズ)が(0.1μm□、0.3μm□)であるCPP-GMR素子について、センス電流の大きさと電極のエッジ部におけるGMR膜の最大磁束密度との関係を示す。

【0012】これらの結果を総合的に判断して、電極サイズが0.3μm□以下でセンス電流値が1mA以上の場合、特に0.1μm□以下でセンス電流値が3mA以上の場合には、電極下部への媒体磁束の流入が妨げられないような対策をとり、センサーの感度を上げることが必要になる。

【0013】また、ハードディスクなどの磁気記憶装置では高記録密度化が進むにつれ磁気ヘッドと記憶媒体との距離である浮上量が徐々に低下している。このような浮上量の低下は、記憶媒体のわずかな突起にヘッドが衝突する確率が高まることを意味し、実際TA (Thermal Asperity)ノイズが問題となっている。したがって、磁気抵抗効果素子が直接媒体対向面に露出しないように、ヨークを介して磁束を磁気抵抗効果素子に引き込むヨーク型のヘッド構造を採用することが好ましい。ヨーク型磁気ヘッドのうちでも、磁気抵抗効果素子をその膜面が媒体対向面と平行するように設ける水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドは、磁気抵抗効果素子全体を媒体近くに設置することができるため有利である。こうしたヨーク型磁気ヘッドにおいても、強いバイアス磁界が印加されたり、強いセンス電流磁界が印加されたりすると、センサーの感度が低下するという問題があり、センサーの感度を上げることが必要になる。

【0014】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明の目的は、垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子、この垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子を含む磁気ヘッド、およびこの磁気ヘッドを搭載した磁気記録再生装置を提供することにある。

【0015】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の一態様に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子は、磁気抵抗効果膜と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に電流を通電可能とする一対の電極と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して平行な方向にバイアス磁界を付与するバイアス印加膜とを具備し、前記磁気抵抗効果膜における信号磁束の流入部分の近傍で、前記バイアス印加膜の磁界の方向と前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に通電される電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となることを特徴とする。

【0016】本発明の他の態様に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子は、磁気抵抗効果膜と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に電流を通電可能とする一対

の電極と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して平行な方向にバイアス磁界を付与するバイアス印加膜と、前記磁気抵抗効果膜における信号磁束の流入部分の近傍に信号磁束を前記磁気抵抗効果膜に導くよう設けられた磁性層とを具備し、前記磁性層において前記バイアス印加膜の磁界の方向と前記磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対して垂直な方向に通電される電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となることを特徴とする。

【0017】上記の磁気抵抗効果膜の信号磁束が流入する側に設けられた磁性層は、信号磁束を磁気抵抗効果膜へ導入するフラックスガイドとして機能する。この磁性層は、磁気抵抗効果膜全体でもよいし、磁気抵抗効果膜のうちフリー層を媒体対向面側に延長して形成された磁性層でもよいし、磁気抵抗効果膜とは別に設けたN i Feなどの軟磁性層でもよい。

【0018】

【発明の実施の形態】磁気抵抗効果膜はTMR膜であってもCPP-GMR膜であってもよい。CPP-GMR膜に含まれるGMR膜としては、例えば2層の強磁性層の間に導電性の非磁性中間層を挟んだ構造を有するものが挙げられる。この構造では、一方の強磁性層は例えば反強磁性層を積層することにより磁化が固着された磁化固着層（ピン層）として、他方の強磁性層は外部磁界により磁化が自由に回転する磁化自由層（フリー層）として機能する。なお、これらの層に加えて、下地層、保護層などを設けてもよい。

【0019】バイアス印加膜としては、CoPtなどの硬質磁性膜や、PtMn、IrMnなどの反強磁性膜を用いることができる。磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に沿って所定の方向にバイアス磁界を印加するように、磁気抵抗効果膜の両側に一対のバイアス印加膜が設けられる。バイアス印加膜は、磁気抵抗効果膜の両側に隣接して設置してもよいし、磁気抵抗効果膜の両側の下または上に設置してもよいし、磁気抵抗効果膜の両側の一部にオーバーラップさせるように設置してもよい。これらの設置方法はバイアス印加膜の磁気特性や膜厚に応じて、最適なバイアス磁界が磁気抵抗効果膜にかかるような組み合わせで選ぶことが望ましい。

【0020】磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に対してほぼ垂直な方向に電流を通電するように、磁気抵抗効果膜の上下に一対の電極が設けられる。電極はCuなどの導電膜で形成してもよく、また磁気抵抗効果膜のフリー層以外の部分、例えば保護膜、反強磁性膜、ピン層の部分を電極として用いてもよい。これらの電極は、磁気抵抗効果膜の中央部に、磁気抵抗効果膜の両側に設けられたバイアス印加膜から離し、かつ媒体対向面から後退するように設けることが好ましい。このように電極を設けると、電極と媒体対向面との間に存在する磁気抵抗効果膜はフラックスガイドとして機能する。なお、上述したように、フラックスガイドは、媒体対向面側へ延長して形成された

フリー層の一部でもよいし、磁気抵抗効果膜とは別に設けた軟磁性層でもよい。このようにして磁気抵抗効果膜の上下に設置された電極は、ピラー形状をなしており、バイアス印加膜近傍にあり強いバイアス磁界を受けて感度が低くなる領域を避けて感度の高い領域の磁気抵抗効果膜のみセンス電流を絞って通電することができる。このため、磁気抵抗効果膜としてGMR膜を用いた場合に、その膜内の電流分布を最適にするのに有利である。なお、ほぼ同じ大きさの電極を磁気抵抗効果膜の上下に位置ずれなく形成することは困難なので、どちらか一方の電極を他方の電極に比べ広くすることで位置ずれ誤差の影響を軽減することが好ましい。

【0021】フラックスガイドとする磁性層を磁気抵抗効果膜と別に設ける場合、この磁性層は、磁気抵抗効果膜のフリー層に接する構成となることが好ましいが、フリー層に磁束を導入可能であればこの構成に限定されるものではない。例えばフリー層とフラックスガイドとしての磁性層とが接触していないともよく、これらの間に非磁性の薄い密着層などを介してもよい。

【0022】また、フラックスガイドとしての磁性層は、バイアス印加膜に接する構成となることが好ましいが、バイアス印加膜がこの磁性層の端部で磁化が安定する程度に十分なバイアス磁界を印加可能であれば、この構成に限定されるものではない。例えばバイアス印加膜とフラックスガイドとしての磁性層とが接触していないともよく、これらの間に非磁性の薄い密着膜などを介してもよい。

【0023】バイアス印加膜はフラックスガイドを含む磁気抵抗効果膜の両側に設けることが好ましい。この場合、フラックスガイドの媒体対向面側の端部を、バイアス印加膜の媒体対向面側の端部と同一平面上となるように形成してもよい。また、フラックスガイドの媒体対向面側の端部の一部を、バイアス印加膜の媒体対向面側の端部よりも媒体側へ突出するように形成してもよい。

【0024】本実施形態の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子では、信号磁束がセンサー感磁部へ流入する側において、バイアス印加膜の磁界と磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に垂直に通電されるセンス電流磁界とが実質的に反平行となり、互いに打ち消す方向に働く。このため、磁気抵抗効果膜の信号磁束がセンサー感磁部へ流入する側の透磁率を高めることができ、磁気抵抗効果素子の最適な動作点を得ることができ、センサーの感度を高めることができる。なお、バイアス磁界とセンス電流磁界は必ずしも完全に打ち消す必要はなく、むしろ信号磁束流入側に弱いバイアス磁界をかけて単磁区化を図れば、バルクハウゼンノイズを抑制することもできる。このように、媒体対向面側においてセンス電流磁界とバイアス磁界とが反平行となるようにし、それぞれの磁界を適切に設定すれば、出力向上とバルクハウゼンノイズ抑制という2つの効果を両立させることができる。

【0025】また、フラックスガイドの媒体対向面側の端部と、バイアス印加膜の媒体対向面側の端部とが、同一平面上となるように形成されている場合には、フラックスガイドにおいてバイアス磁界が安定になるうえに、製造工程も簡単になるという利点がある。

【0026】本実施形態は、高記録密度化に対応するために、電極を小さくし、センス電流値を大きくした場合に、特に有効である。具体的には、電極サイズが $0.3\text{ }\mu\text{m}\square$ 以下でセンス電流値が 1 mA 以上の場合、特に $0.1\text{ }\mu\text{m}\square$ 以下でセンス電流値が 3 mA 以上の場合に、顕著な効果が得られる。

【0027】センス電流Iは、磁気抵抗効果膜の信号磁束が流入する側でバイアス磁界の方向に対して実質的に反平行なセンス電流磁界が発生するように通電する場合を+方向とした場合、 $0 < I < 20\text{ mA}$ の範囲に設定することが好ましい。この条件を満たしていれば、出力向上とバルクハウゼンノイズ抑制の両立が可能となる。このとき、センス電流磁界強度をバイアス磁界強度に対抗できるようにするのが好ましいが、センス電流が大きすぎると素子の発熱が問題となる。これらの観点から、センス電流Iを $3 \leq I \leq 15\text{ mA}$ の範囲に設定することがより好ましい。

【0028】他の実施形態の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子において、磁気抵抗効果膜は信号磁束に対する対向面の長さが信号磁束に対する対向面からの奥行よりも大きくしてもよい。この場合、磁気抵抗効果膜に形状異方性磁界が付与され、磁気抵抗効果膜の磁化が長手方向に安定になる。また、センス電流磁界、バイアス磁界および形状異方性磁界が印加されるので、磁気抵抗効果膜の透磁率を高めて最適動作点を安定して得られるようになるとともに、磁気抵抗効果膜の単磁区化も容易になり、結果として感度を高めることができる。

【0029】さらに他の実施形態の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子において、電極は信号磁束に対する対向面の長さが信号磁束に対する対向面からの奥行よりも大きくしてもよい。この場合、センス電流磁界が直線的になり、上記の効果が安定に得られるようになる。

【0030】上記のような垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子は、これを挟むように形成された1対の磁気シールドと組み合わせて、シールド型ヘッドに適用することができる。この場合、磁気抵抗効果膜の媒体対向面側にフラックスガイドを設け、媒体対向面ではシールド間にフラックスガイドのみが配置されるようにし、媒体対向面側でバイアス磁界と磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に垂直に通電されるセンス電流により発生する磁界とが実質的に反平行となるようになる。

【0031】上記のような垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子は、信号磁束が導入される磁気ヨークと組み合わせてヨーク型ヘッドに適用することもできる。例えば、水平ヨーク型の場合、電極をギャップ直上からずらしてヨーク

上などの実質的に不感部になる部分に対応する位置に配置し、ギャップ直上の最も感度の高い磁気抵抗効果膜の部分でバイアス磁界の方向と膜面に垂直に通電されるセンス電流により発生する磁界の方向が実質的に反平行となるようにすればよい。

【0032】さらに他の実施形態においては、磁気記録媒体と、上記のような磁気ヘッドとを有する磁気記録再生装置も提供される。この磁気記録再生装置を用いて磁気記録を再生する際には、磁気記録媒体からの信号磁束が流入する側で、バイアス印加膜の磁界の方向と磁気抵抗効果膜の膜面に垂直に通電されるセンス電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となるようにセンス電流を通電する。

【0033】以下、本発明の実施形態について図面を参照しながら説明する。図1は一実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。この図において、下側が媒体対向面となる。磁気抵抗効果膜1としてはトンネル接合型磁気抵抗効果膜(TMR膜)またはCPP-GMR膜が用いられており、紙面に直交する方向に膜が積層されている。磁気抵抗効果膜1の上下には、Cuからなる電極2が形成されている。磁気抵抗効果膜1の両側にCoptからなるバイアス印加膜3、3が配置されている。

【0034】図2にTMR膜の例を示す。図2のTMR膜は、Taからなる下地層21、PtMnからなる反強磁性層22、CoFe/Ru/CoFeの三層膜からなる磁化固着層(ピン層)23、AlOxからなるトンネル接合層24、CoFe/NiFeの二層膜からなる磁化自由層(フリー層)25およびTaからなる保護層26を積層した構造を有する。

【0035】図3にCPP-GMR膜の例を示す。図3のCPP-GMR膜は、Taからなる下地層31、PtMnからなる反強磁性層32、CoFe/Ru/CoFeの三層膜からなる磁化固着層(ピン層)33、Cuからなる非磁性中間層(スペーサー層)34、CoFe/NiFeの二層膜からなる磁化自由層(フリー層)35およびTaからなる保護層36を積層した構造を有する。

【0036】なお、TMR膜またはCPP-GMR膜の各層の積層順序は図2または図3と逆になっていてよい。また、TMR膜またはCPP-GMR膜は、フリー層を中心としてピン層が上下対称に設けられたデュアル型となっていてよい。

【0037】図4は図1の垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の断面図である。この図に示されるように、バイアス印加膜3、3は、磁気抵抗効果膜1の両側に隣接して設置されている。なお、バイアス印加膜は、図5または図6に示すような仕方で配置してもよい。図5はバイアス印加膜3、3に磁気抵抗効果膜1をオーバーラップさせた場合を示している。図6は磁気抵抗効果膜1の上にバイ

アス印加膜3、3を設置した場合を示している。

【0038】バイアス印加膜3、3としてCoPtのような硬質磁性膜を用いる場合は図4または図5の構造が望ましい。バイアス印加膜3、3としてPtMnのような反強磁性膜を用いる場合には図5または図6の構造が望ましい。

【0039】図1に示したように、CoPtからなるバイアス印加膜3、3の着磁方向は図の左向きの方向に設定されている。センス電流は電極2に対して紙面の下から上向きに磁気抵抗効果膜1の膜面に垂直に通電され、電極2を中心として図の矢印で示す方向にセンス電流磁界が発生する。この結果、媒体からの信号磁束が流入する媒体対向面側で、バイアス印加膜3の磁界の方向と磁気抵抗効果膜1の膜面に垂直に通電される電流により発生する磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行となる。このように、媒体対向面側でバイアス磁界とセンス電流磁界が互いに打ち消す方向に働くので、磁気抵抗効果膜1の信号磁束がセンサー感磁部へ流入する側の透磁率の低下を抑制できる。また、媒体磁束が、センス電流磁界によって妨げられることなく、感磁部である電極直下の磁気抵抗効果膜に流入するので感度を維持することができる。一方、媒体対向面と反対側では両者の磁界が重なり合うため強いバイアス磁界が加わり、その部分での透磁率が低下する。しかし、この部分は感磁部でもなく媒体磁束の吸い込みにも寄与しないので問題とならない。

【0040】図7は他の実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。図7の素子は、バイアス印加膜3を磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面よりも後退して設けた以外は、図1と同様な構造を有する。

【0041】この構造では、例えばバイアス膜間の距離が狭い場合のようにバイアス膜からの磁界が強すぎるときに、適度な大きさの磁界を磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側にかけることが可能になる。

【0042】図8および図9はそれぞれ他の実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。図8の素子は、媒体対向面と反対側で電極2と重なっていない磁気抵抗効果膜1の部分をなくした以外は図1と同様な構造を有する。また、図9の素子は、媒体対向面と反対側で電極2と重なっていない磁気抵抗効果膜1の部分をなくした以外は図7と同様な構造を有する。

【0043】図8または図9の素子では、媒体対向面と反対側においてバイアス磁界とセンス電流磁界が重なり合って透磁率が低下して磁化が動きにくくなる部分をなくしているので、その部分の影響により他の部分の磁化が動きにくくなるのを防ぐことができ、全体として感度の低下を防止できる。

【0044】図10は他の実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。この素子における磁気抵抗効果膜1は、媒体対向面に沿う長さが媒体対向面からの奥行よりも大きく、媒体対向面に沿って横長の形状

となっている以外は図8と同様な構造を有する。この場合、磁気抵抗効果膜1に横方向の形状異方性を付与することができ、バイアス印加膜3、3からのバイアス磁界に異方性磁界を加えることができるので、磁気抵抗効果膜1を容易に単磁区化することができる。

【0045】図11および図12はそれぞれ他の実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。図11の素子は、バイアス印加膜3を磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面よりも後退して設けた以外は、図10と同様な構造を有する。図12の素子は、媒体対向面側の磁気抵抗効果素子1の突出部分の幅を電極2とほぼ同程度の幅にしている以外は図11と同様な構造を有する。

【0046】これらの構造では、磁気抵抗効果膜にバイアス磁界とともに形状異方性磁界を加えて磁気抵抗効果膜を単磁区化しやすくするとともに、例えばバイアス膜間の距離が狭い場合のようにバイアス膜からの磁界が強すぎるときに適度な大きさの磁界を磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側にかけることが可能になる。

【0047】図13は他の実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。図13の素子における電極2は、媒体対向面に沿う長さが媒体対向面からの奥行よりも大きく、媒体対向面に沿って横長の形状となっている以外は図1と同様な構造を有する。

【0048】この構造では、媒体対向面側でのセンス電流磁界の直線性が良好になり、バイアス磁界との相殺効果が向上する。したがって、媒体対向面側の磁気抵抗効果膜1のバイアス制御がより容易になる。

【0049】図14および図15はそれぞれ他の実施形態に係る垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図である。図14の素子は、バイアス印加膜3を磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面よりも後退して設けた以外は、図13と同様な構造を有する。図15の素子は、媒体対向面側の磁気抵抗効果素子1の突出部分の幅を電極2とほぼ同程度の幅にしている以外は図14と同様な構造を有する。

【0050】これらの構造では、媒体対向面側でのセンス電流磁界の直線性が良好になりバイアス磁界との相殺効果が向上するともに、例えばバイアス膜間の距離が狭い場合のようにバイアス膜からの磁界が強すぎるときに適度な大きさの磁界を磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側にかけることが可能になる。したがって、媒体対向面側の磁気抵抗効果膜1のバイアス制御がより一層容易になる。

【0051】さらに図15のように、媒体対向面側の磁気抵抗効果素子1の突出部分の幅を電極2とほぼ同程度の幅にすると、磁気抵抗効果膜1に横方向の形状異方性を付与できる。したがって、バイアス磁界に形状異方性磁界を加えることができ、磁気抵抗効果膜をさらに容易に単磁区化することができる。

【0052】図1および図7～図15に示した磁気抵抗効果素子の構造のうちでは、図1、図8、図10および

図13のように、磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側の端部と、バイアス印加膜3の媒体対向面側の端部とが、同一平面上となっていることが好ましい。この場合、磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側においてバイアス磁界が安定になるうえに、製造工程も簡単になるという効果が得られる。

【0053】また、図1、図8、図10および図13では、磁気抵抗効果膜1の一部をフラックスガイドとして用いており、フラックスガイド部分の厚さは他の部分の磁気抵抗効果膜1の厚さと等しくなっている。一方、図16に示すように、磁気抵抗効果膜1と媒体対向面との間に、例えばNiFeなどからなる軟磁性層11を設けてフラックスガイドを形成し、軟磁性層11の媒体対向面側の端部と、バイアス印加膜3の媒体対向面側の端部とが、同一平面上となるようにしてもよい。なお、図16に示すフラックスガイドは、磁気抵抗効果膜1のフリー層のみを媒体対向面側に延長して形成してもよい。この場合にも、磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側においてバイアス磁界が安定になるうえに、新たな層を形成する工程を要しないことから製造工程も簡単になるという効果が得られる。また、上記のようにフラックスガイドを磁気抵抗効果膜1とは別に設けられた磁性層または磁気抵抗効果膜1のフリー層の一部で形成すれば、フラックスガイドをより薄くできるので、狭ギャップ化に有利である。

【0054】図17は一実施形態に係るシールド型磁気ヘッドの斜視図である。この図において、下側が媒体対向面となる。磁気抵抗効果膜1の上下には、Cuからなる電極2が形成されている。磁気抵抗効果膜1の両側にCoPtからなるバイアス印加膜3、3が配置されている。この磁気抵抗効果素子は図1と同様な構造を有する。さらに、電極2に接してNiFeからなる磁気シールド4が配置されている。なお、この図では、片側の磁気シールドは図示を省略している。

【0055】図18は図17のシールド型磁気ヘッドを媒体対向面から見た平面図である。磁気抵抗効果膜1の上下には電極2、2が形成されている。磁気抵抗効果膜1の両側にはバイアス印加膜3、3が配置されている。これらの部材は一对のシールド4、4間にAl₂O₃などからなる絶縁膜6によって絶縁された状態で挟まれている。この実施形態では、磁気シールド4は通電リードを兼ねるものとして形成されている。

【0056】このシールド型磁気ヘッドでは、媒体対向面側でCoPtからなるバイアス印加膜3の着磁方向とセンス電流磁界が相殺されるように、センス電流の通電方向が決められている。したがって、媒体磁束が、センス電流磁界に妨げられることなく、感磁部である電極2直下の磁気抵抗効果膜1に流入するので、シールド型磁気ヘッドの感度を維持することができる。

【0057】なお、図1、図7乃至図15では、電極2

の媒体対向面側の端面が磁気抵抗効果膜1の媒体対向面側の端面より後退した例を示した。しかし、原理的に磁気抵抗効果膜の信号磁束が流入する側でバイアス磁界の方向とセンス電流磁界の方向とが実質的に反平行になつていればよいので、これらの例に限らず、電極2の媒体対向面側の端面が磁気抵抗効果膜1の端面と同一面あるいはそれよりも媒体よりに形成された形態も本発明に含まれる。

【0058】図19は一実施形態に係る水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドの斜視図である。この図において、下側が媒体対向面となる。磁気抵抗効果膜1の上には、Cuからなる電極2が形成されている。磁気抵抗効果膜1の両側にCoPtからなるバイアス印加膜3、3が配置されている。さらに、磁気抵抗効果膜1の下側には、磁気ギャップを規定するNiFeからなる磁気ヨーク5が形成されている。電極2は磁気ヨーク5のギャップの真上からはずれた位置に形成されており、磁気ヨーク5のギャップの真上に磁気抵抗効果膜1が位置している。電極2の下側に位置する磁気ヨーク5は他方の電極として機能する。

【0059】この水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドでは、磁気ヨーク5のギャップの真上に位置する磁気抵抗効果膜1の部分で、媒体対向面側でCoPtからなるバイアス印加膜3の着磁方向とセンス電流磁界が相殺されるように、センス電流の通電方向が決められている。したがって、媒体磁束が、センス電流磁界に妨げられることなく、感磁部である磁気抵抗効果膜1に流入するので、水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドの感度を維持することができる。

【0060】図20は他の実施形態に係る水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドの斜視図である。図20の水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドは、磁気ヨーク5の磁気ギャップの真上からはずれた位置に、磁気ギャップに対して対称的な位置に2つの電極2、2を形成している以外は図19と同様な構造を有する。また、図示は省略しているが、磁気ヨーク5の磁気ギャップ先端部分は磁気抵抗効果膜よりも導電率の高いCuで埋められている。この水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドでは、センス電流は一方の電極2から、磁気抵抗効果膜1、磁気ヨーク5、磁気ギャップ部のCu、磁気ヨーク5、磁気抵抗効果膜1を通り、他方の電極2へと流れれる。

【0061】この水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドでも、磁気ヨーク5のギャップの真上に位置する磁気抵抗効果膜1の部分で、媒体対向面側でCoPtからなるバイアス印加膜3の着磁方向とセンス電流磁界が相殺されるように、センス電流の通電方向が決められている。したがって、媒体磁束が、センス電流磁界に妨げられることなく、感磁部である磁気抵抗効果膜1に流入するので、水平ヨーク型磁気ヘッドの感度を維持することができる。

【0062】次に、本発明に係る磁気ヘッドを搭載した磁気ヘッドアセンブリ、およびこの磁気ヘッドアセンブリを搭載した磁気ディスク装置について説明する。

【0063】図21(a)はCPP-GMRヘッドを搭載した磁気ヘッドアセンブリの斜視図である。アクチュエータアーム201は、磁気ディスク装置内の固定軸に固定されるための穴が設けられ、図示しない駆動コイルを保持するボビン部等を有する。アクチュエータアーム201の一端にはサスペンション202が固定されている。サスペンション202の先端にはCPP-GMRヘッドを搭載したヘッドライダ203が取り付けられている。また、サスペンション202には信号の書き込みおよび読み取り用のリード線204が配線され、このリード線204の一端はヘッドライダ203に組み込まれたCPP-GMRヘッドの各電極に接続され、リード線204の他端は電極パッド205に接続されている。

【0064】図21(b)は図21(a)に示す磁気ヘッドアセンブリを搭載した磁気ディスク装置の内部構造を示す斜視図である。磁気ディスク211はスピンドル212に装着され、図示しない駆動装置制御部からの制御信号に応答する図示しないモータにより回転する。アクチュエータアーム201は固定軸213に固定され、サスペンション202およびその先端のヘッドライダ203を支持している。磁気ディスク211が回転すると、ヘッドライダ203の媒体対向面は磁気ディスク211の表面から所定量浮上した状態で保持され、情報の記録再生を行う。アクチュエータアーム201の基端にはリニアモータの1種であるボイスコイルモータ214が設けられている。ボイスコイルモータ214はアクチュエータアーム201のボビン部に巻き上げられた図示しない駆動コイルとこのコイルを挟み込むように対向して配置された永久磁石および対向ヨークからなる磁気回路とから構成される。アクチュエータアーム201は固定軸213の上下2個所に設けられた図示しないボルペアリングによって保持され、ボイスコイルモータ214により回転摺動が自在にできるようになっている。

【0065】本発明の種々の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子は長手磁気記録方式だけでなく垂直磁気記録方式の磁気ヘッドまたは磁気記録再生装置にも適用することができ、同様の効果を得ることができる。磁気記録再生装置は固定式の記録媒体を備えたものでもよく、記録媒体がリムーバブルなものでもよい。

【0066】本発明の種々の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子は、磁気的に情報を書き換え可能なMRAM(Magnetic Random Access Memory)にも適用することができ、同様の効果を得ることができる。

【0067】その他、上述した実施形態に基づいて当業者が適宜設計変更して実施しうるすべての磁気抵抗効果素子、磁気ヘッドおよび磁気記憶再生装置も同様に本発明の範囲に属する。

【0068】

【発明の効果】以上詳述したように本発明によれば、垂直通電型界の影響を低減させることができる垂直通電型

磁気抵抗効果素子、この垂直通電型磁気抵抗効果素子を含む磁気ヘッド、およびこの磁気ヘッドを搭載した磁気記録再生装置を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】一実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図2】TMR膜からなる磁気抵抗効果膜の断面図。

【図3】CPP-GMR膜からなる磁気抵抗効果膜の断面図。

【図4】一実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の断面図。

【図5】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の断面図。

【図6】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の断面図。

【図7】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図8】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図9】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図10】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図11】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図12】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図13】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図14】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図15】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図16】他の実施形態に係る磁気抵抗効果素子の平面図。

【図17】一実施形態に係るシールド型ヘッドの斜視図。

【図18】図17のシールド型ヘッドを媒体対向面から見た平面図。

【図19】一実施形態に係る水平ヨーク型ヘッドの斜視図。

【図20】他の実施形態に係る水平ヨーク型ヘッドの斜視図。

【図21】一実施形態に係る磁気ヘッドアセンブリの斜視図、および磁気ディスク装置の内部構造を示す斜視図。

【図22】電極サイズと電極のエッジ部において磁気抵抗効果膜にかかる最大磁束密度との関係を示す図。

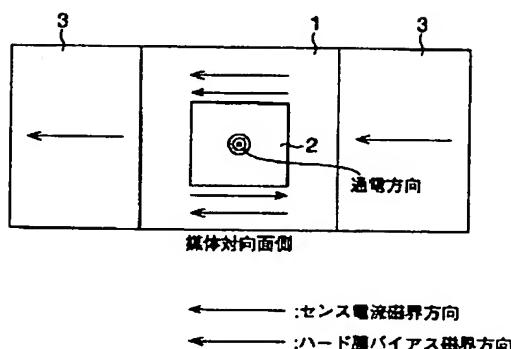
【図23】センス電流の大きさと電極のエッジ部において磁気抵抗効果膜にかかる最大磁束密度との関係を示す図。

【符号の説明】

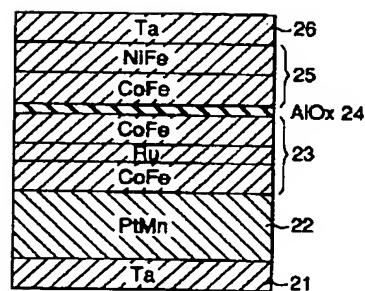
1 … 磁気抵抗効果膜
 2 … 電極
 3 … バイアス印加膜
 4 … 磁気シールド
 5 … 磁気ヨーク
 6 … 絶縁膜
 11 … 軟磁性層
 21 … 下地層
 22 … 反強磁性層
 23 … 磁化固定層（ピン層）
 24 … トンネル接合層
 25 … 磁化自由層（フリー層）
 26 … 保護層
 31 … 下地層

32 … 反強磁性層
 33 … 磁化固定層（ピン層）
 34 … 非磁性中間層（スペーサー層）
 35 … 磁化自由層（フリー層）
 36 … 保護層
 201 … アクチュエーターム
 202 … サスペンション
 203 … ヘッドスライダ
 204 … リード線
 205 … 電極パッド
 211 … 磁気ディスク
 212 … スピンドル
 213 … 固定軸
 214 … ポイスコイルモータ

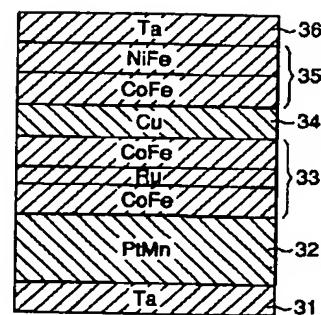
【図 1】



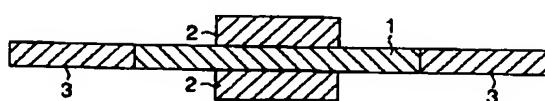
【図 2】



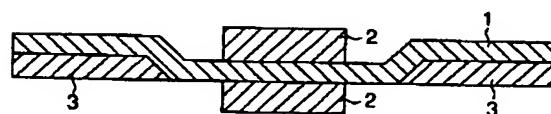
【図 3】



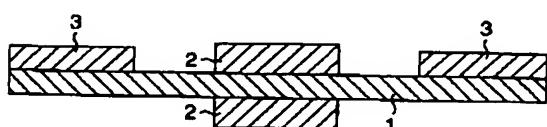
【図 4】



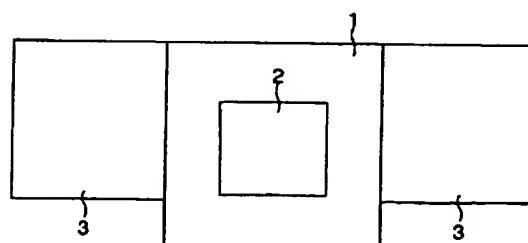
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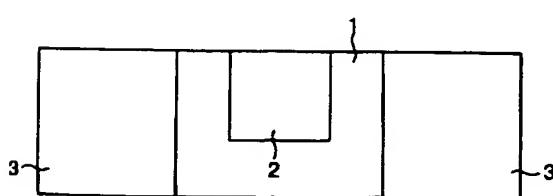
【図 6】



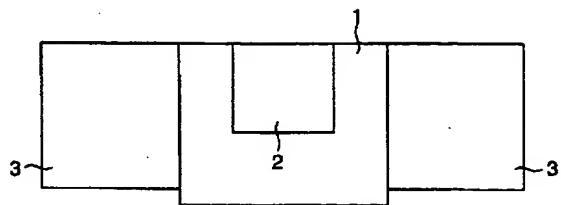
【図 7】



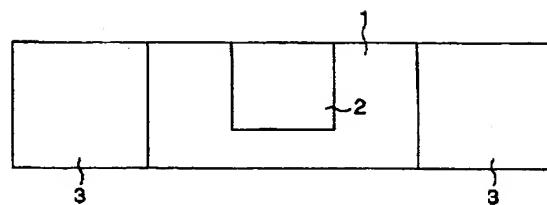
【図 8】



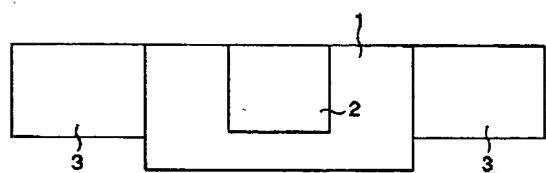
【図9】



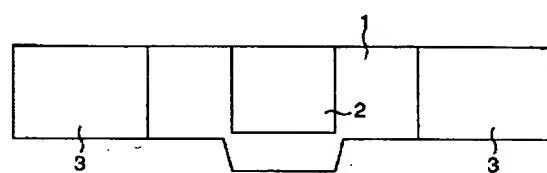
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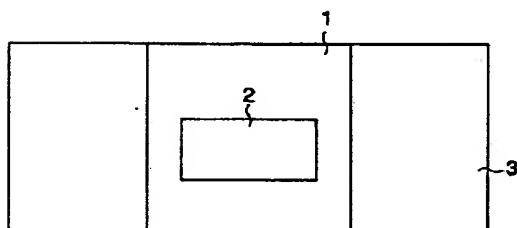
【図11】



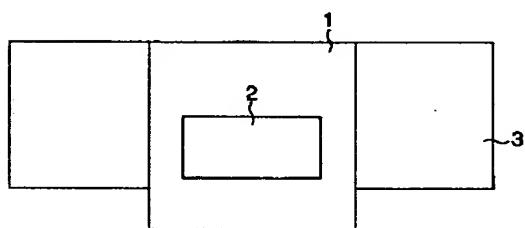
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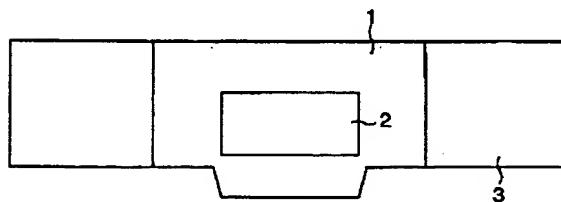
【図13】



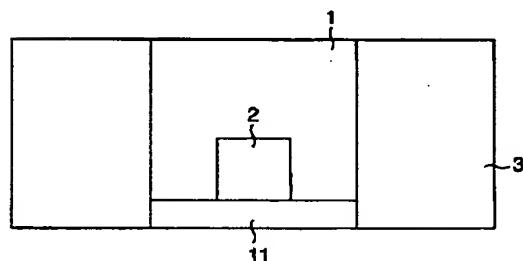
【図14】



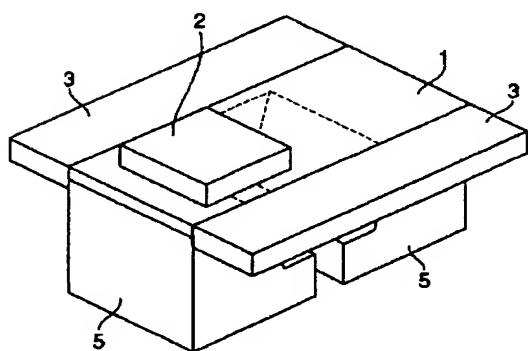
【図15】



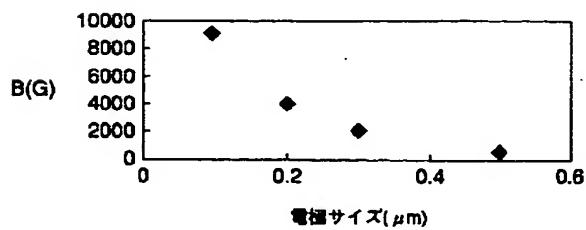
【図16】



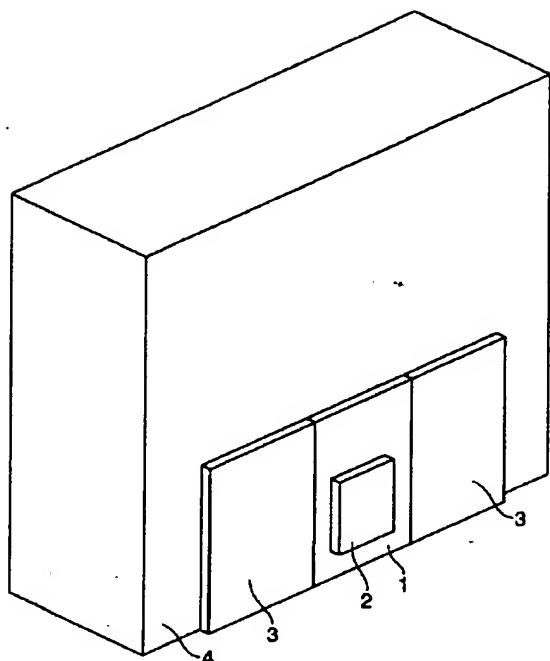
【図19】



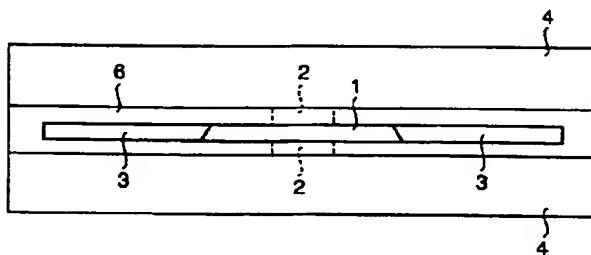
【図22】



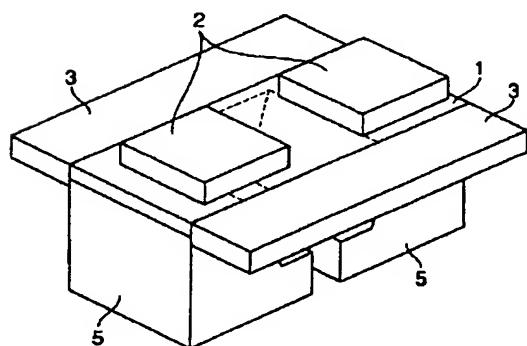
【図17】



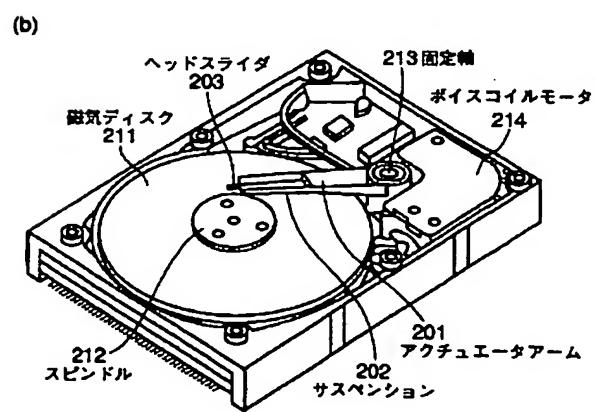
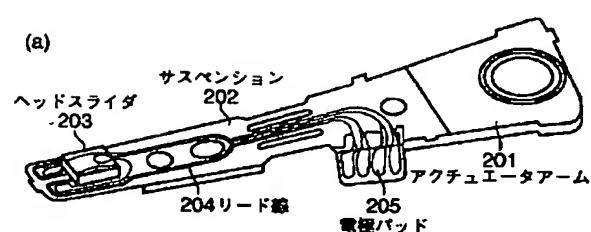
【図18】



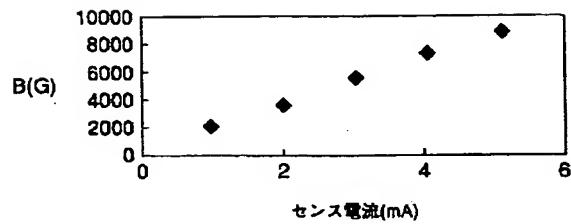
【図20】



【図21】



【図23】



フロントページの続き

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CA08